

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
THE HOWE SCALE COMPANY,
RUTLAND, VERMONT.

Rutland, Vt., Aug. 24, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,

Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Doctor:-

Your favor of the 22nd is at hand this morning. Many thanks for the same. I regret that we should receive these plans just at this most unfortunate time for us. I think I never saw the business conditions of America in the shape they are to-day. I hardly know which way to turn or what to do. The scale company recently started in Bennington, who have their shops all complete and claimed they were doing a fine business, closed down for good some two weeks ago. E. & T. Fairbanks & Co. of St. Johnsbury I understand are now only running five hours a day and they have laid off a very large proportion of their help. The Fairbanks Co.'s shops at Binghamton, N. Y., are closed down tight and the same report is as to their shops at Sherbrooke, Canada. Thus you will notice the general conditions pertaining to scale business, and I think that their affairs to-day are fully as favorable as that of any other class of manufacturers in this country outside of the textiles. We hardly dare export goods, as we fear for the credit which can be obtained. The moratorium which has been enacted in Germany and Austria is liable also to prevail with the other countries. Thus we are in all kinds of trouble and hardly know which way to turn.

I have an appointment for to-morrow which will occupy every moment of my time from noon until evening. Thus it would be impossible for me to do anything outside on that date. Just the first moment that I can get to go over this subject with Mr. Lyman, I certainly

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will do so. He is here working for us and I can but feel would be only too willing to give me any information we might want. I should not for a moment think of trusting my judgment on these plans and I do feel that if there are contracts to be made, that we at least here would never ask for the architects to make them. I certainly should be pleased to meet you and Ex-President Brainerd at the earliest opportunity possible. If you are to be at home a week from Tuesday, would you kindly advise, when I will endeavor to arrange to see you, or hoping that you might come to Rutland. I note also that we have no contract as yet with Allen & Collens, though I do feel that this is a subject which must have attention and at once. You have had more experience in this kind of work than the writer and wish you would look over the rules which I sent you and be prepared for such suggestions as may occur to you. Do you think we could do much this season? I thought possibly we might get in the foundation and get the work started, and perhaps conditions might be such that we could go along with the building, though I have doubted it. I should be pleased to hear from you fully with any suggestions which might occur to you or Ex-President Brainerd.

With very kind regards, I am,

Yours most respectfully,

John A. Head